EXHIBIT I Atty. Dkt. No. 355492-2950

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Todd J. HEWITT, et al.

Title: WIRE BRAID-REINFORCED MICROCATHETER

Appl. No.: 10/683,877

Filing Date: October 10, 2003

Examiner: Laura Bouchelle

Art Unit: 3763

Confirmation Number: 7840

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being electronically transmitted to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, Virginia** via EFS-Web on the date below.

Shelley Gottlieb
(Printed Name)

Shelley Gottlieb
(Signature)

August 19, 2008
(Date of Transmission)

DECLARATION OF EARL SLEE

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I, Earl Slee, hereby declare that:

1. I, Earl Slee, earned a B.A. in Physics from U.C. San Diego in 1983 and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from San Diego State University in 1989.

2. I have been an employee of ev3 Neurovascular and its predecessor company, MicroTherapeutics Inc., since April 1998. During this period, I have worked extensively with braid-reinforced microcatheters to deliver the embolic compositions to treat vascular diseases. I am familiar with the present application and the claimed invention.

4. The present invention is directed to a braid-reinforced microcatheter having a degree of flexibility to traverse remote vascular locations and a degree of strength to withstand high pressure associated with catheter delivery of viscous liquid embolizing compositions comprising:

a) a cylindrical inner layer of polymer defining a single lumen in the catheter wherein said inner layer has a proximal end and a distal end and a flexibility at its distal end greater than at its proximal end further wherein said inner layer consists essentially of a first or inner polymer layer and a second or outer polymer layer at the proximal end and said first polymer layer at the distal end and still further wherein said first polymer layer is a lubricous polymer selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene and high density polyethylene and said second layer comprises polyimide and wherein the second layer gradually tapers to zero at the distal end wherein at least 3-5 cm of the distal end is provided with no polyimide;

b) a braided wire layer over the inner layer, the braided wire layer including a distal segment of a first pic rate and a proximal segment of a second pic rate which is smaller than the first pic rate, the braided wire layer extending from the proximal end to within about 1 cm of the distal end of the catheter;

c) an outer jacket surrounding the braided wire comprising a plurality of joined segments of polymers of increasing flexibility thereby having a proximal durometer higher than a distal durometer; and

d) wherein the microcatheter is devoid of a balloon and wherein the microcatheter has a burst strength of from 700 to 1000 psi.

5. The gradual tapering of the polyimide layer to zero at the distal end wherein at least 3-5 cm of the distal end is provided with no polyimide, provides for a microcatheter with greater strength and reduced flexibility at the proximal end and greater flexibility and reduced strength at the distal end. The greater strength imparts both proximal rigidity necessary for manipulation of the device as well as a greater burst strength necessary to permit viscous

materials to be pushed through the lumen of the catheter. Indeed, the burst strength of the claimed catheters is from 700 to 1000 psi.

6. I have reviewed the cited references, Gore et. al. (US 5,662,622) and McGurk (US 5,676,659) and found no disclosure of a tapered polyimide layer. Further, prior to the invention, I was unaware of any catheter having the burst strength of the claimed invention.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that false statements and the like made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Executed at Irvine, California, this 6 day of AUG 2008.

Earl Slee